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President Reagan Proclaims 1989 As the Year of the Young Reader

Pictured with the President on December 5 are: Elinor Swaim, N.C. State Library Commission (left); Gary Strong, California State Librarian; Eunice Ellis, Pizza Hut, Inc.; James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress; Lauro F. Cavazos, Secretary of Education; Patricia W. Berger, ALA President Elect; and John Y. Cole, Center for the Book. (White House photograph)

President Ronald Reagan issued a presidential proclamation on December 5 designating 1989 as the Year of the Young Reader. The proclamation follows the passage and presidential signing on November 15 of congressional legislation, Public Law 100-662.

Joint resolutions for "1989—the Year of the Young Reader" were introduced on May 10 in the Senate (S.J. Res. 315) by Senators Dennis DeConcini, Claiborne Pell, Daniel J. Moynihan, Mark Hatfield, and Ted Stevens and in the House of Representatives (H.J. Res. 565) by Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar. They were approved by the Senate on July 26 and the House of Representatives on October 21.

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(There is no staff news in this issue of the *Information Bulletin.*)

Young Reader *(Cont. from p. 1)*

The resolutions, which were initiated by The Librarian of Congress, the Center for the Book, and the Childen's Literature Center, call on the President to encourage parents, educators, librarians, and others to observe the year with activities that focus attention on encouraging a love of books and reading among young people.

The Library of Congress observance of the Year of the Young Reader began on October 22 with a Family Reading Celebration in the Library's Great Hall cosponsored with Washington, D.C., public television station WETA TV/26. On November 17 the Library's Children's Literature Center and the Center for the Book presented a lecture by noted children's book author Katherine Paterson, together with presentations by first graders from the Alexander R. Shepherd Elementary School in the District of Columbia. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington took part in both programs.

The 17 state centers for the book, each affiliated with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, are participating with a wide variety of activities. Kick-off events have been held in the states of California, Minnesota, and Oklahoma (where Governor Henry Bellmon has officially proclaimed 1989 as the Year of the Young Reader). In a special project initiated by the Florida Center for the Book, all babies born in Florida hospitals on January 1 were given "Read To Me" T-shirts and their parents "Raise a Reader" kits.

National organizations that are participating include the American Library Association (ALA), the Association of Booksellers for Children, the Children's Book Council, and the International Reading Association. Dozens of publishers are making use of the theme in their advertising and publications.

Individuals and corporations also are taking part by making tax-deductible contributions to become "Best Friends" of the Year of the Young Reader, thus supporting projects throughout the country. For further information about the "Best Friends" campaign, write John Y. Cole, director, Center for the Book, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540; or call (202) 707-5221.

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued weekly by the Information Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies, and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Bruce Tapper, Editor

Ben Benitez Appointed Director of Personnel

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has announced the appointment of Ben Benitez, currently the director of personnel, safety, and equal employment opportunity (EEO) programs at the United States Mint, as the new director of personnel and labor relations of the Library of Congress. Mr. Benitez will join the Library staff on January 3.

Mr. Benitez has been with the U.S. Mint since 1982. Among his more recent accomplishments are the automation of personnel, safety, training, and EEO information management systems; an evaluation of middle-management training courses; the successful negotiation of a new labor-management contract; and the development and implementation of a performance appraisal system for staff. From September 1983 to May 1984, Mr. Benitez served on detail as acting associate director for policy and management, the U.S. Mint's highest ranking administrative officer. In that position, among many other accomplishments, he managed Automated Data Processing (ADP) support services for all organizations within the U.S. Mint, formulated policies and procedures for accounting and financial services, developed travel regulations, and prepared the annual budget.

Mr. Benitez has had extensive personnel experience in other Federal agencies. At the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, he was a supervisory employee relations specialist (1982) and a supervisory personnel management specialist (1980–82). With the U.S. Department of Labor from 1977, he was a supervisory position classification specialist. From 1973 to 1976, he was a civilian employee of the U.S. Army—first a staffing specialist and classification specialist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and subsequently a position classification

Ben Benitez

specialist in the Army Materiel Command Office of Personnel.

In addition to his varied experience in his present position, he has worked in employee benefits programs, the preparation of handbooks, training, labor and employee relations, affirmative action and EEO, position classification, and recruitment. A graduate of Southwest Miami (Fla.) High School, Mr. Benitez holds undergraduate (B.B.A., 1967) and graduate (M.B.A., 1973) degrees from Loyola University in New Orleans. He worked for the International City Bank and Trust Company in New Orleans in 1967-69, when he joined the U.S. Air Force, in which he spent nearly four years as a personnel specialist and training officer.

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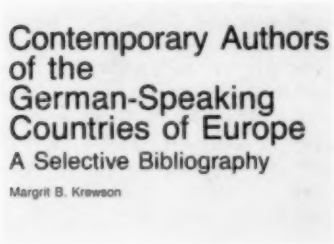
Library Publishes Guide To Contemporary German Literature



The Library has just published a major bibliography, compiled by Margrit B. Krewson, German/Dutch area specialist in the European Division, on contemporary literature of the German-speaking countries of Europe, surveying the writers of Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, and Switzerland. The 306-page bibliography, *Contemporary Authors of the German-Speaking Countries of Europe: A Selective Bibliography*, is a compilation from the holdings of the Library of Congress,

(Cont. on p. 5)

Text of Agreement for Cooperation with Library of The Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Leningrad

A Memorandum of Agreement between the Library of Congress and the Library of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Leningrad, was signed on June 17, 1988, concluding a week of negotiations between the administration of the Leningrad Library and the Library of Congress delegation of five specialists. The Library of Congress delegation was in Leningrad the week of June 11-18 and consisted of Carolyn Sung, Research Services Department; Peter Waters, Conservation Office; Merrily Smith, National Preservation Program Office; Harold Leich, European Division; and Hugh Olmsted, Slavic Department, Harvard College Library. The goals of the visit were to inspect the Academy Library's progress on recovery from the disastrous fire of February 14, 1988, and to discuss plans for future action and cooperation at the international level in several areas, including preservation and replacement of destroyed materials.

The Academy Library has agreed to recognize the Library of Congress as the primary coordinator for international assistance efforts. Highest priority for immediate development includes establishing regular contact between preservation specialists and managers of the two libraries; establishing direct and rapid text communications links between the two institutions; and replacing the estimated 188,000 non-Russian volumes totally destroyed in the fire.

The Library of Congress has already received two lists of materials totally destroyed and has initiated bibliographic searching of them with the aim of locating possible replacement copies, reprints, or microform runs.

Funding for the Library of Congress delegation to visit Leningrad was generously provided by the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity, which had also funded a visit by preservation experts in March 1988.

Memorandum of Agreement

Record of the joint discussions by the Library of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (BAN) and representatives of the Library of Congress of the USA (LC) that considered several issues, including the recommendation contained in the *Consultants' Report* (May 1988), which was submitted to the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity.

The two sides note that at present BAN has succeeded in drying 3,427,000 of the 3,602,000 volumes that had suffered damage from water and high humidity. 175,000 volumes remain frozen in cold storage. These will be processed in accordance with the recommendations of the group of consultants for the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity and the mission of Unesco. 10,535 volumes were affected by mold, which has been totally eliminated. Volumes totally destroyed by fire are currently estimated at 398,000 (210,000 Russian; 188,000 in foreign languages). In the historical Baer collection 75,000 of the total 520,000 were damaged by fire to a greater or lesser degree and are being restored.

In the course of 38 days prophylactic disinfection of the stacks has been completed, covering a volume of over 44,000 cubic meters and the 8.1 million volumes stored in them that suffered from water or were at risk from mold infection. The processing was carried out by fumigation with formaldehyde. Not one book, from those that were moistened or covered with mold, had been lost or destroyed.

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Leningrad *(Cont. from p. 3)*

The two sides discussed the detailed plan presented by BAN for reclamation of damaged items. The LC representatives expressed their admiration for the speed and efficiency with which the clean-up of the collections and repository had proceeded to date. They concluded that this achievement reflected extraordinary effort, devotion, and dedication on the part of the staff of the library and the community. The representatives of LC reaffirmed the interest of LC, numerous concerned individuals and organizations within the United States, and members of the international community, who have expressed their willingness to assist BAN in its recovery program.

The results of the joint discussion were:

I. Coordination and Organization

I.1 BAN agrees to support the proposal that LC (in collaboration with Unesco, IFLA, and ICA) be the primary coordinator of international efforts to assist BAN.

I.2 In order to insure effective coordination between BAN and LC, both sides consider it necessary to establish direct communication links. These could include FAX, TELEX, telephone, computer, or any combination of these.

I.3 To further develop the exchange of information and foster the advancement of specific programs, bilateral contacts between experts from each side are to be considered necessary not less than twice a year.

II. Conservation and Preservation of Collections

II.1 BAN has accepted and will develop the concept of mass restoration (rapid reclamation) for books suffering fire damage. Together with this, both sides agree that publications with historical and cultural value should be individually and fully restored by highly qualified conservators according to standards established by Soviet conservation experts.

II.2 BAN accepts the recommendation of the *Consultants' Report* whereby fellowships be provided for visiting conservation experts and/or trainers who could contribute by demonstrating techniques and assisting in the training of technicians as well as in treating items. In addition, both sides agree to individual and reciprocal visits of conservation experts for periods of not less than two months for purposes of information exchange. These visits could begin in early 1989.

II.3 After learning about the concept of phased conservation developed at LC, BAN is prepared to use it as an approach in restoration work. Both sides agree that for phased conservation to be implemented effectively, various archival supplies and equipment are required, as described in the *Consultants' Report*.

II.4 BAN also asks for assistance in the procurement of equipment for a laboratory for mass and individual restoration of publications damaged during the fire. Following BAN's establishment of special laboratory facilities, BAN has recommended the establishment of a model restoration laboratory. This center could also serve as the basis for an international restoration center, providing that adequate funding is made available. LC representatives agreed that expansion of BAN's present laboratory space, equipment, and staff is required to restore the fire-damaged material in a timely manner.

III. Replacement of Collections

III.1 BAN is working on replacing publications with informational value, but which are not properly cultural monuments, by means of duplicates, microfilm, or facsimile editions. Both parties agree that replacement efforts would be greatly assisted by the establishment of photocopying capabilities, including an in-house microfilming operation that will be capable of producing archival master negatives and service copies. To insure effective scholarly use of microfilm copies, BAN will need assistance in the purchase of microfilm readers and printers. For this goal considerable information, expertise, and literature should be shared.

III.2 BAN is ready to provide LC, in its capacity as the primary coordinating center, with detailed information regarding foreign-language publications that were damaged or lost during the fire. LC agrees to work *only* with replacement lists prepared and submitted by BAN. LC will need additional resources to support this replacement program.

III.3 Both sides agree that total reassessment of the Baer (foreign language) collection and its catalog may be required as a part of the replacement and recovery effort. By creating an automated catalog, additional information about the item (such as format, marginalia, etc.) can be recorded to form a more complete description of each individual item and the collection as a whole. This could form the basis of a pilot project. Computer hardware and software and technical expertise in their use will be needed to undertake this project.

IV. Prevention and Planning

IV.1 Considering the bitter experience of BAN and the consequence of its disaster, both sides agree that the world's libraries should periodically assess their risk from disasters. Both sides agree to ask IFLA to assemble, maintain, and make available a list of expert consultants on disasters who could assist in such assessments.

IV.2 BAN accepts the recommendation of the *Consultants' Report* for visiting consultations by experts on library fire protection. BAN is in need of any technical information

that the library community wishes to offer on fire detection and suppression systems.

IV.3 BAN agrees that conferences or seminars on disaster preparedness would be welcomed by Soviet librarians, and that the availability in the USSR of AV [audio-visual] training programs on this topic is highly desirable.

V. Financing

Both sides hope that the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and others will be able to provide the necessary financial assistance for the implementation of the recommendations and programs included in this protocol. In particular, both sides hope that the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity will continue its generous support for the recovery from this disastrous fire.

VI. Reciprocity

VI.1 BAN expresses its gratitude to the world community and, in particular, to the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity for the consultative aid of talented experts, for its effective help, and for its desire to collaborate in the sacred task of preserving and reclaiming cultural treasures of worldwide and national importance.

VI.2 BAN is ready to offer LC its services in making available rare and manuscript books for display in foreign exhibitions, and also preparing facsimile editions of them. BAN is ready to present in the third quarter of 1988 a development plan for the organization and subject matter of exhibits and for the preparation of facsimile editions in foreign countries. The LC representatives agreed to begin discussion of such an exhibition exchange between BAN and LC immediately.

VI.3 The LC representatives hope that the programs described in this document will result in the exchange of information of mutual interest.

VI.4 The LC representatives wish to express their deep appreciation and gratitude for the extensive and instructive tours and exchanges of preservation information arranged by BAN, and for the hospitality and openness present during all discussions.

–V.P. Leonov, acting director; Carolyn Sung; Hugh Olmsted; Peter Waters; Merrily Smith; Harold Leich.
Leningrad, 17 June 1988

Benitez *(Cont. from p. 3)*

Mr. Benitez serves as the writer-editor of several personnel newsletters. He has been a guest instructor for the U.S. Air Force Basic Personnel Management Course at Keesler Air Force Base and has spoken to conferences on Federal personnel management issues. He has taken numerous courses in personnel, automation, and writing and was a participant in 1986 in the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Va. He has been the recipient of more than a half-dozen achievement and cash awards during his Federal career.

German *(Cont. from p. 3)*

containing 2,474 entries.

Although contemporary German literature draws on a long and distinguished intellectual tradition, it is largely the product of post-World War II experience. This literary demarcation date—roughly 1945—can also be applied to the work of Austrian and Swiss authors. The authors selected were chosen on the basis of their critical recognition rather than their commercial success.

The compiler had the advice of a panel of experts from academic institutions in the United States and abroad as well as the advice of the cultural counselors of the embassies of the respective countries to insure that the selection was representative of the areas surveyed. The bibliography does not claim to be complete but is rather an introduction to contemporary literature of the German-speaking countries of Europe.

Authors are listed under the country of their birth or the country in which they produced the main body of their work. This bibliography is divided into four major sections, arranged alphabetically by country. At the head of each section are handbooks and surveys of the literature of that country, followed by the works of the individual authors and critical monographs about them. English translations of the literary works are included.

Contemporary Authors of the German-Speaking Countries of Europe: A Selective Bibliography (Washington: Library of Congress, 1988; LC call number Z2233.K79 1988) is available for $9 from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (cite stock number 030-001-00126-1 when ordering).

ALA Publishes Standard Reference for Cataloging

The American Library Association's (ALA) Publishing Services has published *Notes in the Catalog Record Based on AACR2 and LC Rule Interpretations*, by Jerry D. Saye and Sherry Vellucci ($60, pbk., approx. 600 p., 0-8389-3348-3, 88-950, November 1988, AP:ACI).

The book is a comprehensive treatment of the historically unstructured "descriptive notes" area. Accepted interpretations of AACR 2 are supplemented with working examples to create a standard reference for library cataloging departments.

Descriptive notes for all print and nonprint formats covered by AACR 2 are treated in this work. The text is organized by note type, and each

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ALA *(Cont. from p. 5)*
point of discussion is illustrated with cataloging examples. Each chapter provides a statement of the general rule for the type of note under discussion and any other non-note rules related to the use of that note. Library of Congress rule interpretations for the note and related non-note rules are given. Finally, each chapter includes a historical perspective on the treatment given to that note under earlier cataloging codes. Indexes are provided for subjects, LC card numbers and OCLC control numbers, pre-AACR 2 rules cited, and LC rule interpretations cited.

To order *Notes in the Catalog*, write: American Library Association, Publishing Services Order Dept., 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Report from the ALA/RTSD Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials

A meeting of the Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials was opened at the ALA meeting this past summer by Katharine Elsasser, head, Humanities I Section, Subject Cataloging Division, Library of Congress. The committee is a subgroup of the Cataloging and Classification Section (CCS) of the American Library Association's Resources and Technical Services Division (ALA/RTSD).

Mary Kay Pietris, chief, Subject Cataloging Division, Library of Congress, reported that the recently introduced online version of Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) had functioned well; that the microfiche edition of LCSH covering the first quarter of 1988 had been issued; that the hard copy 11th edition, covering through August 1987, would be published shortly in three volumes; and that a CD-ROM version was also nearing release. She mentioned that a new edition of the *Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings* was progressing well and might be issued in the fall. She also called attention to recently published articles in the *Cataloging Service Bulletin* and reviewed the status of the revision of parts of the Library of Congress classification schedules, noting that work had begun on a MARC format for classification. Ms. Pietris stated that a hiring freeze imposed within Processing Services last January had had its greatest impact so far on the staff available for shelflisting operations, although the subject cataloging process had reduced the division's arrearage of books awaiting assignment of subject headings and classification numbers.

Lian Tie Kho, Yale University, made a presentation on geographic area codes for Southeast Asian countries and argued that the existing two-letter codes were insufficient for application to areas located in Indonesia and Malaysia. After some discussion the group decided to consider the issue further at its next session.

Reports followed by which the members were informed of the highlights of recent meetings held by CORMOSEA (Committee on Research Materials on Southeast Asia) and the African Studies Association.

John Byrum, chief, Descriptive Cataloging Division, Library of Congress, gave a detailed report on developments affecting descriptive cataloging of monographic and serial publications in areas of interest to the committee. In his general remarks, he stated that funds for purchasing new titles were below previous levels but that acquisitions from several countries where the Library had field offices, for example New Delhi and Jakarta, would not be adversely impacted by this. He reiterated the potential problem in moving acquisitions through the descriptive operation insofar as Processing Service's hiring freeze precludes replacement of staff with specialized language knowledge. Compensating to some extent for reduced resources at the Library was the continued progress in implementing programs to accomplish more minimal-level and full-level cataloging in the field offices. With respect to activities in languages of particular interest to the group, he noted that the Japanese Language Section was keeping current with receipts; that output of descriptive cataloging for Chinese imprints was down, and output for Korean imprints had increased; that cataloging for Armenian titles was current with receipts, but there was still a significant arrearage for Turkish; that in the area of Hebraica, output was up, notwithstanding diversion of resources to bring about implementation of the Research Libraries Group (RLG) online vernacular cataloging capability; that output of Arabic and Persian cataloging continued to be low, with prospect for improvement during the coming year; and that in the area of South Asian materials, production of monographic cataloging was favorable overall, noting that cataloging of Sanskrit had been resumed due to recruitment of a cataloger with this language skill before the onset of the hiring freeze.

The afternoon session opened with an announcement by Ms. Elsasser that the new chairperson following this meeting would be Andrea Stamm of Northwestern University.

The committee had earlier forwarded a proposal to the Committee on Cataloging: Description and Access (CC:DA) for a reconsideration of the qualifiers added to the cities and towns of Malaysia, and a report from CC:DA stated that the proposal was not accepted, pending the accumulation of more information from the point of view of catalog users and further consideration

by CC:DA of the larger question of qualification of geographic names in all countries.

A report was given of the meeting of the Middle East Library Association, held in Baltimore, Md., in conjunction with the meeting of the Middle East Studies Association. Interesting highlights included some attention to the problem catalogers have dealing with non-Gregorian dates and information about the building of a research center in Jerusalem by Brigham Young University.

The committee discussed an expansion of MARC geographic area codes for Indonesia and Malaysia, for greater specificity in subject retrieval of MARC records, and finally decided to recommend this expansion as an appendix to the USMARC format. The proposal makes it clear that the application of these more specific codes would be at the local level, where there are specialized collections, rather than at the national level.

The committee also discussed romanization tables. Earlier, the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) had sent out for reaffirmation its standard for the romanization of three languages, Lao, Khmer, and Pali, and had received some indication of problems in these tables. In its deliberations the committee was able to discount these problems and finally recommended that a vote for reaffirmation of the standard should be forwarded through channels to NISO. In this connection it was accepted by the committee that rules for the word division of Lao need to be developed, even though this may take some time. The committee also considered a new romanization table for Kurdish, as proposed by the Library of Congress. The latest Library of Congress draft of this table was accepted with the addition of two notes for specifics of application.

A brief mention was made of the CONSALD (Committee on South Asia Libraries and Documentation) Libraries proposed project to seek funding for cooperative upgrading on minimal level (MLC) records. These are records in South Asian languages other than English which are currently cataloged as MLC. Use studies have shown that there are so few access points that this body of material is virtually unused.

Other issues raised included the possibility of a list of standardized romanization for certain words in Arabic. This would be for a small number of words frequently used and therefore showing a need for some regularization of the romanization, as title pages present the Arabic forms variously, which can lead to varying interpretations by different catalogers. A question was also raised about the possibility of developing a manual for Arabic, similar to the manual developed for Hebrew by Paul Maher of the Library of Congress.

—John D. Byrum and
Ben R. Tucker

AMERICAN TREASURY

PRODUCED BY CBS NEWS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The answer to last week's question, drawn from the CBS News "American Treasury" series, broadcast each weekday at 3:57 p.m. (EST) on the CBS Television Network, is:

Henry Clay's efforts to find a middle ground on the divisive issue of slavery left him with enemies on both sides of the issue. He tried to become President five times, but said, "I'd rather be right than be President."

(This answer concludes the "American Treasury" feature in the LC *Information Bulletin*.)

Meetings and Events Around the Library

Tuesday, January 10
☐ "Open Forum on Performing Arts Collections at the Library of Congress," Peter J. Fay, head of the Library of Congress Performing Arts Library at the Kennedy Center. LC Professional Association (LCPA). Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m.

Tuesday, January 24
☐ "Odyssey in West Africa: Contemporary Cultural Dynamics" (illustrated with slides), Adell Patton, professor of history, Howard University. LCPA. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m.

Thursday, January 26
☐ "The One-Minute Manager" (video recording). LCPA. Staff Training and Development Classroom A, 12:10 p.m.

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1989 YEAR OF THE YOUNG READER
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